

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated August 3, 2004. Claims 76 to 79, 94 to 97, 106 and 109 are presented for examination, with Claims 39 to 75, 80 to 93, 98 to 105, 107, 108, 110 and 111 having been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 76 to 79, 94, 97, 106 and 109 have been amended, of which Claims 76, 94, 106 and 109 are independent. Favorable review and early passage to issue are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, Claims 76, 77, 94, 95, 106 and 109 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,774,232 (Tabata), and Claims 78, 79, 96 and 97 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Tabata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,796 (Endo). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

The present invention generally concerns outputting image data to an output medium. Among its many features, the present invention provides that (i) information is acquired indicating a state of an X-ray irradiation or a photographed portion of an input image, and (ii) an outputting area is designated, in image data obtained by computerizing the input image (or representing an image of a photographed object), to be outputted to the output medium, based on the acquired information.

Referring specifically to the claims, independent Claim 76 as amended is directed to an image outputting system for outputting image data to an output medium. The system includes an acquisition unit configured to acquire information indicating a state of an X-ray irradiation or a photographed portion of an input image, and a designation unit configured to designate an outputting area, in image data obtained by computerizing the

input image, to be outputted to the output medium, based on the information acquired by the acquisition unit. In addition, the system includes a selection unit configured to select one of a plurality of output media sizes, and a determination unit configured to determine an output mode based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and the output medium size selected by the selection unit.

In a similar manner, independent Claim 94 as amended is directed to a method.

Independent Claim 106 as amended is directed to a photographing system for photographing an object and outputting image data to an output medium based on an image of the photographed object. The system includes an acquisition unit configured to acquire information indicating a state of an X-ray irradiation or a photographed portion of the object, a photographing unit configured to photograph the object and obtain image data representing the image, and a designation unit configured to designate an outputting area to be outputted to the output medium, in the image data, based on the information acquired by the acquisition unit. In addition, the system includes a selection unit configured to select one of a plurality of output medium sizes, and a determination unit configured to determine an output mode based on a relationship between the designated outputting area and output medium size selected by the selection unit.

In a similar manner, independent Claim 109 as amended is directed to a method.

The applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest the features of the invention of the subject application. In particular, the Tabata and Endo patents are not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) acquiring information indicating a state of

an X-ray irradiation or a photographed portion of an input image, and (ii) designating an outputting area, in image data obtained by computerizing the input image (or representing an image of a photographed object), to be outputted to the output medium, based on the acquired information.

As understood by Applicants, Tabata describes an image recording apparatus that recognizes a size of the sheet document fed thereto, divides a read image into two portions when a size of the document is larger than recording paper having a specified size, and executes image processing for displacing a central position of each divided image to be aligned with an edge of a binding space of each discrete sheet of recording paper. The apparatus inverts either one of a first sheet of recording paper and a second sheet of recording paper with a recording paper inverting mechanism. See Tabata, column 16, line 62 to column 17, line 8.

The Office Action equated the “read image” of Tabata with the claimed “outputting area”, and further contended that Tabata’s read image is designated based on a scanned portion of the image. Applicants respectfully disagree.

As noted above, Tabata teaches that its read image is divided into two portions based on a size of the document. Accordingly, it is the size of the document in Tabata, not a photographed (or scanned) portion of the image, which serves as a basis for designating the read image. This is different than the present invention, in which the outputting area is designated based on acquired information, the acquired information indicating a state of an X-ray irradiation, or a photographed portion of the image. Tabata is silent as to a state of an X-ray irradiation, or a photographed (or scanned) portion of the image.

Accordingly, Tabata is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) acquiring information indicating a state of an X-ray irradiation or a photographed portion of an input image, and (ii) designating an outputting area, in image data obtained by computerizing the input image (or representing an image of a photographed object), to be outputted to the output medium, based on the acquired information.

In addition, Endo has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Tabata.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, independent Claims 76, 94, 106 and 109 as amended are believed to be allowable over the applied references.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa,
California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to
our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael K. O'Neill", written over a horizontal line.

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